

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 05308 311433Z

53

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 ACDA-10

IO-10 OMB-01 /091 W

----- 045068

R 311036Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2136

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

13TH ADVON UDORN

USSAG NAKHOM PHANOM

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS BANGKOK 5308

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH, US

SUBJ: CHATCHAI ON U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWALS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE
MARCH 28. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF
HIS REMARKS ON U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWALS.

REPORTER: WHEN YOU SAID THAT AMERICANS WILL RETURN HOME, DID
YOU MEAN AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES OR PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS WHO
HAVE COME AND ARE ENGAGED IN VARIOUS OCCUPATIONS HERE?

CHATCHAI: PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS COME HERE AS ORDINARY CIVILIANS
AND THEY ARE ENGAGED IN MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD LIKE ANY ORDINARY
CIVILIANS. BUT THEIR MILITARY FORCES ARE IN THE FORM OF UNITS,
THEREFORE WHEN THEY ARE WITHDRAWN ALL UNITS MUST BE COMPLETELY
PULLED OUT.

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 05308 311433Z

REPORTER: HAVE YOU READ THE LAST LETTER FROM NORTH VIETNAM? WHAT WILL YOU SAY IN A LETTER IN REPLY?

CHATCHAI: I HAVE READ IT AND I AM STILL CONSIDERING HOW TO DRAFT A REPLY TO IT. AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, NORTH VIETNAM WAS VERY UPSET IN VARIOUS WAYS WHEN IT WROTE THAT LETTER, THEREFORE IT SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY, IT SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION THAT IT IS VERY UPSET BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY DAMAGED BY BOMBING AND THE WAR. IT IS THEREFORE WISER FOR US TO SPEAK CALMLY AND HOLD TALKS BY GRADUAL STAGES.

REPORTER: IN WHAT WAYS DOES IT SHOW ITS DISPLEASURE?

CHATCHAI: FOR INSTANCE, IT SAYS THAT THIS AND THAT CONDITION IT DEMANDS MUST BE CARRIED OUT FIRST BEFORE FURTHER TALKS CAN BE HELD, SUCH AS DEMANDING THAT AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES BE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN AT ONCE. GOOD HEAVENS* HOW COULD THAT BE DONE* AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES CAN AND WILL BE WITHDRAWN, BUT IT IS STATED CLEARLY IN OUR FOREIGN POLICY THAT FRIENDLY NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE HELD. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MUST WE SAY, "PACK YOUR BAGS AND GET OUT*" TALKS HAVE TO BE HELD FIRST BECAUSE AMERICA HAS TO MAKE PREPARATIONS AND PROVIDE PLACES FOR ITS MILITARY FORCES TO LIVE IN ALSO... AS I HAVE SAID ALREADY I HAVE INVITED THE AMERICAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES TO COME AND MEET ME IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

REPORTER: HAVE YOU DRAFTED A LETTER IN REPLY TO THAT OF NORTH VIETNAM YET?

CHATCHAI: NOT YET. WE ARE TAKING OVER OUR DUTIES AS THE GOVERNMENT. DURING THE PAST 2-3 MONTHS, SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN SET UP.

REPORTER: IS THERE ANYTHING MAKING YOU FEEL CERTAIN THAT AFTER AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN THAT COMMUNISTS WILL NOT CONTINUE INFILTRATING INTO OUR COUNTRY? WHAT DO YOU HAVE THAT MAKES YOU FEEL CONFIDENCE?

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 BANGKO 05308 311433Z

CHATCHAI: BUT IT IS YOU WHO DEMAND FOR THEM TO BE WITHDRAWN. SO I AM MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR WITHDRAWAL. IF EVERYBODY DEMANDS FOR THEM TO BE WITHDRAWN, THEY HAVE TO BE WITHDRAWN. ISN'T THAT TRUE, WHEN EVERYBODY SAYS THAT THEIR PRESENCE CAUSES US LOSS OF SOVEREIGNTY AND A LOUD OUTCRY IS MADE, THEN THEY MUST BE WITHDRAWN. IN DEMOCRACY, IT IS THE MAJORITY OR THE VIEW OF THE MAJORITY WHICH

COUNTS. WHEN THE VIEW OF THE MAJORITY DEMANDS THEIR WITHDRAWAL, I HAVE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR WITHDRAWAL.

REPORTER: WHEN WILL NEGOTIATIONS BE STARTED?

CHATCHAI: VERY SOON.

REPORTER: WILL THE 27,000 MEN BE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN AT ONCE, OR WILL THEY BE WITHDRAWN BY GRADUAL STAGES?

CHATCHAI: THAT WILL DEPEND ON THE COMMITTEE WHICH WILL HOLD NEGOTIATIONS. I THINK THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL MOST PROBABLY BE STARTED SOME TIME NEXT WEEK.

REPORTER: DOES THAT MEAN THAT THEY WILL BE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN WITHIN ONE YEAR'S TIME?

CHATCHAI: YES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICY DRAFTED. BUT WE WILL HOLD NEGOTIATIONS IN A FRIENDLY MANNER, AND CONSIDERATION WILL HAVE TO BE PAID TO THE SITUATION VIOLENT FIGHTING HAS BROKEN OUT AGAIN. IN VIETNAM THERE IS FIGHTING AGAIN. IN CAMBODIA EVERYTHING IS SO CHAOTIC AND CONFUSE THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW WHAT IS WHAT.
MASTERS

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